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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

Garstang Rural District Council

for the Year 1925.



GARSTANG: H. WRIGHTSON, PRINTER AND STATIONER.



GARSTANG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present you with my Annual Report for the past year.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres...57,189.

Population—Census 1921...10,757. Estimated, 1925...11,090.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER
OF THE AREA.

The main part of the district is flat, but small parts of it are undulating. The subsoil varies and contains clay, gravel, peat, kuper marl and sandstone. The River Wyre passes through the District. Water is taken from this river and its tributaries, and in addition to supplying a large portion of your district, supplies Blackpool, Lytham St. Annes, Fleetwood, practically the whole of the Urban and Rural Districts in the Fylde, Lancaster, Morecambe, Heysham and a large portion of the Lancaster Rural District—the mains extending to the borders of the Urban District of Carnforth.

I estimate that during the summer season water is being supplied to the major portion of two million people, and, it will be quite understood, that the river during a dry period becomes practically stagnant and in a dirty condition. During recent years the Lancaster Corporation have had powers granted to store additional water, and instead of compensation reservoirs being erected, they have on two separate occasions compensated the riparian owners.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) 2,423.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) 2,567.

Rateable value £156,260. Assessable value £92,277.

Sum represented by a penny rate £385.

The population is mainly occupied in agriculture or its adjuncts. There are two cotton mills and one paper mill in the district which employ about 250 persons. The population is on the increase and will, in my opinion, continue to increase—owing to the excellent motor omnibus services between the towns of Preston and Lancaster and other services from Garstang to Blackpool, Fleetwood, etc., which is the cause of houses being erected and occupied by persons working in the towns.

2.—VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
Births in 1925.....	179 ...	81 ...	98
Deaths in 1925	154 ...	73 ...	81

Per 1000 of Population :

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births.
Mean of 5 years—				
1895-1899.....	23·0	13·9	0·65	98
1900-1904.....	23·0	13·2	0·56	78
1905-1909.....	21·8	12·6	0·80	76
1910-1914.....	20·4	11·3	0·33	68
1915-1919.....	15·8	13·7	0·61	79
1920-1924.....	19·7	12·1	0·38	57
Year 1924.....	17·7	10·4	0·26	25
1925	16·1	13·8	0·63	83

Increase or decrease
in 1924 on mean of
5 years, 1920-1925—

	—3·6	—1·7	—0·25	—26
Previous year...	—1·6	—3·4	—0·37	—58
Standardizing factor ·482; corrected death-rate 11·6 per 1000.				

As will be noticed from the above statistics the birth-rate last year was the lowest on record, except for the period during the war. The decrease during the last five years has occurred in the birth of males, whereas the female birth-rate has remained nearly stationary. Take the year 1921-7 more males were born than females. In 1925 there were 17 more females,

The death-rate of infants has increased from 25 per 1,000 births in 1924 to 83 per 1,000 in 1925; this can be accounted for to a great extent by, at least, half the infants dying from non-preventable causes. Taking the infantile mortality for the last five years the result is good.

Death-rate.—The number of deaths for 1925 is 38 more than 1924, which was one of the lowest death-rates ever recorded. For the five years ended 1925 the mean death-rate is increased by 1·7. Attention should be drawn to the average age at death, which is 62 years, taking the whole of your district: this, I think, shows that the Garstang Rural District is one of the most healthy parts of England.

Gratuitous Poor Law medical relief is only used to a small extent.

Infectious Diseases.—*Diphtheria*.—There were 60 cases reported, mostly in children between the ages of 5 and 10 years, an average of 12 per year, with 4 deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—64 cases, an average of 12·8 per year.

These diseases, which are principally children's diseases, have now become of such a mild nature that it is difficult to detect the causes in an early stage to prevent the spread of infection. I have detected cases of diphtheria in schools, which proved positive, from swabs taken from the throat. Cases of scarlet fever have also been found in the schools in the secondary stage, and in both cases, have not been absent from school during the fortnight previous to diagnosis.

Enteric Fever.—There have been six cases reported of paratyphoid, an average of 1·2 per year. These cases occurred in four houses, the source was not detected, except in the case of two contacts. This disease is nearly stamped out and very seldom occurs in your district.

Puerperal Fever.—Only one case in five years. I think this requires no comment.

Pneumonia.—Twenty-one cases reported, an average of 4·2 per year. This is a good return.

Erysipelas.—Nine cases reported, an average of 1·8 per year. This return is also very satisfactory.

Tuberculosis.—38 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, an average 7·6 per year, with 20 deaths, an average of 4 per year.

31 cases of other forms of tuberculosis, an average of 6·2 per year, with 19 deaths, an average of 3·8 per year.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum.—Only one case reported in five years. This requires no comment from me.

3.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital accommodation provided :—

For Smallpox—conjoint. Where situate—Elswick.

For other Infectious Diseases—nil.

Hospital accommodation for the treatment of Zymotic Diseases. Many of the cases in your district can be isolated and properly treated at home, but there are a few which should be removed to an Isolation Hospital. You have in recent years arranged for the removal of such cases to hospitals in adjoining areas, the cost, in my opinion, for the treatment of these cases is excessive—costing about £40 per case. I think that when epidemic infectious sickness appears, the provision of a house or houses as temporary isolation hospitals might be made, and would, in my opinion, be cheaper than you are at present paying.

Cases of Sickness.—There has been no serious epidemic of any specific disease, except an outbreak of influenza in 1925, when I visited and closed seven schools.

During the last five years, except an outbreak of measles in 1922, 1923, and 1924, when several schools were closed, and a slight outbreak of diphtheria in 1921, the health of the district has been very good.

The three registered Midwives practicing in the area continue to do good work.

The County Council Health Visitor continues to do good work.

The three District Nurses employed by the District Nursing Association do good work.

4.—LABORATORY WORK.

During 1925 fifty-five specimens—Blood 2, Sputum 22, Throat swabs 31, have been submitted to the Clinical Research Association and the Manchester University, making a total of 185 specimens for the five years.

The sending of specimens by Medical Practitioners in your district in conjunction with the Antitoxin provided by you has been a means of preventing the spread of infectious disease, thereby being of great advantage to the public generally.

5.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.—1,430 houses are supplied direct, and 24 by standpipe from the Fylde Water Board's, Manchester Corporation, and private mains. The remainder of the district is supplied from springs, deep and shallow wells, which are liable to pollution.

The townships of Pilling, Winnaricigh, Myerscough, and parts of Out Rawcliffe, Bilsborrow, Cleveley, Cabus and Forton and small portions of Hambleton, Great Eccleston and Stalmine require a constant supply of water.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The character of the drainage system throughout the district varies. There are several townships which require proper drainage systems.

All new drains laid in the district are tested with water, other drains are tested with smoke. The sewers are flushed from the water mains, brooks, etc.

Fourteen privies have been converted to water closets during the year and 48 during the five years, six privies have been converted to pail closets during the year and 22 during the five years.

Seven pail closets have been converted to water closets during the year and 23 during the five years.

In all cases in new houses water closets are provided where possible and pail closets where there is no efficient water supply or sewer.

Scavenging.—The scavenging of Garstang; Calder Vale, Bonds and Bowgreave (in the township of Barnacre-with-Bonds), and Scorton (in the township of Nether Wyresdale), is done by your workmen in a satisfactory manner. The other congested places in the district might, with advantage, be scavenged by you.

6.—HOUSING.

Statistics for the year (see Inspector's Report).

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) 46

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i.) By the Local Authority Nil

(ii.) By other bodies or persons 13

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building

Scheme Nil

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation.

Advances made during 1925—

(a) By Loans—nil.

(b) By Subsidy—13. Amount of subsidy £75 per house.

Unfit dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded (under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...12

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 1

Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 1

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

William Lewis Armstrong, part-time officer.

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor—

James Cook, whole-time officer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

Johnson B. Cook, whole-time officer.

In conclusion, I consider the health of the district generally very satisfactory, and the sanitary condition improved.

Building of houses shows a satisfactory improvement.

Your obedient servant,

W. L. ARMSTRONG,

Medical Officer of Health.

Union Offices,
Garstang,

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1-5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
20-25	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...
25-35	2	2	1	...	2	...	...	...
35-45	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
45-55	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
55-65	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards.....	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...
Totals	7	5	5	5	4	3	1	3
	12		10		7		4	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	Un- der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	9					2	3	2		2	1			1	
Erysipelas.....	4						6		4	1	1	2		5	
Scarlet Fever	19				1	1									
Pneumonia	9						2								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12					1			1	5	1	4	3	6	7
Other form of Tuberculosis	10	1	2			1				2	1	1	2	2	4
Totals.....	63	1	2		1	4	12	8	5	11	5	7	7	14	11

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF GARSTANG.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	M.	F.
Whooping Cough.....		1
Influenza	5	3
Meningococcal Meningitis		1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	4	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	3
Cancer—Malignant disease	4	7
Diabetes.....	3	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	3	2
Heart Disease	16	15
Arterio-sclerosis.....	4	
Bronchitis	7	6
Pneumonia (all forms).....	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)		1
Appendicitis and Typhilitis		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	..	...
Other Accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.....		1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	4	3
Suicide	1	
Other deaths from violence.....	2	2
Other defined diseases.....	13	23
Total ...	73	81

GARSTANG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in handing to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Cases.—Sixty-three cases of infectious disease have been reported in 56 houses during the year. All cases were visited as soon after being reported as possible. After the cases were declared free from infection, the houses and all infected clothing, etc., were disinfected with formalin. Fourteen cases were removed to Hospital.

Common Lodging-houses.—One temporary common lodging-house, built with an occupation order, with option of renewal every six months, was allowed to be erected on account of a by-pass road being made. There are no tents, vans, or sheds in the district.

Slaughter-houses.—There are eight registered and three licensed slaughter-houses in your district: portions of five carcasses of beef, etc., weighing about 520-lbs., and 240-lbs. of offal have been condemned as unfit for food.

Practically the whole of the butchers only purchase live animals which in their opinion are sound and mostly young ones. I do not hesitate to say that the general public in your district are served with as good meat as it is possible to buy. It is only possible to examine a percentage of the pigs which are killed in other than regular slaughter-houses, most of the carcasses are taken into towns and are examined there.

Food and Drugs.—No samples of food and drugs were taken by me in your district during the year. Samples are taken by the County Police.

Canal Boats.—Twenty-three inspections were made of fifteen boats during the year. There were no infringements of the Acts or Regulations. There is very little traffic on the canal.

Scavenging.—The scavenging of Garstang, Calder Vale, Bonds and Bowgreave (in the township of Barnace-with-Bonds), is done by your workmen in a satisfactory manner. The other congested places in your district ought to be scavenged by you.

Water Supplies.—Pilling, Winmarleigh, Nateby, Forton, Myerscough. The supply of water to these townships is still under consideration.

Factory and Workshops.—Eighty-four factories and workshops were inspected during the year, and generally well kept.

There are no out-workers in the district.

Bakehouses.—Nine bakehouses, all retail, have been inspected and are kept in a cleanly condition. There are no underground bakehouses in your district.

Knackers Yard.—One knackers yard in your district is regularly inspected, and is kept in good order.

Rats and Mice.—This Order was taken over by you from the County Council in 1924. The whole of the district was circularised during rat weeks and, no doubt, good was done. We received no complaints of any place being infested with rats or mice.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Practically no fresh milk comes in your district.

Milk produced in your district is, no doubt, of good quality; very few complaints have been received by us from the districts to which it is supplied. Only two complaints of tuberculous milk being received during the year. After receiving the complaints the Medical Officer of Health and myself visited the farms and inspected the cattle and we were not able to detect any disease. One hundred and forty-seven shippens and one dairy are on the Register. One Astra Plant has been licensed for Pastuerising milk.

A number of these shippens have been put in order to meet the requirements of the Bye-laws and Regulations, and, with the exception of two, the remainder have promised to complete the work before the 31st July next.

In a district like yours, the carrying out of the Dairies and Cowsheds Order entails a considerable amount of additional work to your Committee and the Officers. If the whole of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, comes into force, every shippen in your district will have to be registered.

Particularsof Inspection, etc.

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	1254
Number of written complaints	...	...	...	...	3
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	74
Number of notices sent	...	...	...	...	65
Dirty houses ordered to be cleaned	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses dealt with as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	2
Number of factories and workshops inspected	...	...	...	...	84
Number of bakehouses inspected...	...	...	...	...	9
Canal boats inspected	...	...	...	...	23
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	56
Number of schools disinfected after being closed on account of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	13
Slaughter-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	11
Knackers' yards inspected	...	...	...	...	1
Registered cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	147
Registered dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	1

BUILDING IN THE DISTRICT.

Housing.—What overcrowding occurs in your district is principally by members of the same family—married couples living with their parents.

On the whole, the houses in your district are fairly good. There are a few that do not meet with up-to-date requirements and could only be made so with a fair amount of expenditure. Most of these repairs have not been carried out on account of expensive labour and materials. There are a few that I do not think it would pay to repair at all.

There are no back-to-back houses in your district.

The shortage is not so acute as at the beginning of 1921.

Forty-six new houses were built during the year, 43 of which were cottages of five rooms or less—13 of these being assisted by a grant of £75 each under the Housing Acts.

During the five years ended the 31st December, 1925, 172 houses have been built, 159 of which had five rooms or less—27 of these receiving the £75 per house grant.

These 172 houses were erected in 21 out of the 22 townships, as shown below:—

*Townships in which houses were completed for five years to
31st December, 1925.*

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	In course 31/12/25
Barnacre-with-Bonds...	1	2	...	3	3	9	2
Bilsborrow	...	...	...	1	3	4	4
Bleasdale.....	...	...	...	1	4	5	...
Cabus	2	...	6	9	4	21	4
Catterall	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Claughton	...	2	1	2	1	6	...
Cleveley	1	1	1	...	1	4	1
Forton	...	3	3	1	...	7	1
Garstang	6	7	6	3	7	29	7
Great Eccleston	1	2	...	5	3	11	...
Hambleton	2	3	4	1	2	12	4
Holleth.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inskip-ith-Sowerby ...	...	...	1	...	2	3	...
Kirkland	2	...	...	...	...	2	4
Myerscough.....	...	1	...	...	2	3	1
Nateby.....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Nether Wyresdale	...	...	7	11	6	24	4
Out Rawcliffe	...	...	2	1	...	3	...
Pilling	...	3	2	6	4	15	3
Stalmine-with-Staynall	1	1	1	2	1	6	1
U. Rawcliffe-w-Tarnacre	1	...	...	1	2	4	...
Winmarleigh	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Grand Total.....	17	26	36	47	46	172	36

Plans, &c.

Plans submitted in 1925 ...	...	...	...	...	90
Plans approved...	...	...	...	...	86
Plans not approved ...	...	...	...	...	4
Representing :—					
Houses approved ...	...	...	...	...	54
Additions (improvements) to houses, approved	...	...	...	...	20
Farm Outbuildings approved	...	...	...	...	9
Workshops approved ...	...	...	...	...	2
Lay-out plans approved...	...	...	...	...	1
Lay-out plans not approved	...	...	...	...	1
Post Offices approved ...	...	...	...	...	1
Garages and other buildings approved	...	...	...	...	4
Garages and other buildings not approved	...	...	...	...	5
Petrol pumps approved ...	...	...	...	...	7

Buildings Erected during the Year.

Houses, 43 cottages...	...	...	...	46
Additions (improvements) to houses	...	...	...	22
New Farm buildings	...	...	...	2

Buildings in course of erection at 31st December, 1925.

Houses, 36 cottages...	...	...	...	36
Additions (improvements) to houses	...	...	...	4

Townships in which houses were completed in 1925.

Barnace-with-Bonds.....(2 cottages)—(2 subsidy)	3
Bilborrow	3
Bleasdale.....(4 cottages).....	4
Cabus	4
Claughton(1 cottage)	1
Cleveley	1
Garstang.....(5 cottages)—(2 subsidy)	7
Great Eccleston.....(2 cottages)—(2 subsidy)	3
Hambleton	2
Inskip-with-Sowerby.....(2 cottages)—(2 subsidy)	2
Myerscough.....(2 cottages).....	2
Nether Wyresdale	6
Pilling	4
Stalmine-with-Staynall.....(1 cottage)	1
U. Rawcliffe-w-Tarnaere ... (2 cottages)—(1 subsidy)	2
Winmarleigh	1
—	
Total..... (43 cottages)—(13 subsidy)	46

Return for the last ten years of houses erected, or in course of erection, on the 31st December, of each year,

Year	Completed	In course
1916.....	19	1
1917.....	1	Nil
1918.....	Nil	1
1919.....	4	1
1920.....	9	14
1921.....	17	13
1922.....	26	13
1923.....	36	26
1924.....	47	39
1926.....	46	36

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. COOK,

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

Union Offices, Garstang,
March 1925.

